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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, help us see the invisible movement of Your spirit in people and in events. Beyond our everyday world of ongoing responsibilities and the march of secular history, with its sinister and frightening possibilities, You call us to another world of suprasensible reality which is the mainspring of the universe, the environment of our everyday existence, and our very life and strength at this moment. Help us to know that You are present, working out Your purposes, and have plans for us. Give us eyes to see Your invisible presence working through people, arranging details, solving complexities, and bringing good out of whatever difficulties we entrust to You.

We begin this new week affirming our loyalty to You, dear God, and to our great Nation. Grant the Senators eyes to see You as the unseen but ever-present Sovereign. Then help them to claim Your promise: "Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Through Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today we have the opportunity to file amendments on the antiterrorism legislation. The last 2 weeks have been very productive in the Senate. We completed the very big, important, supplemental appropriations bill providing for many important things, not the least of which is, because of September 11, homeland security.

The work done—I have said this on the floor on a number of occasions—by the Appropriations Committee, led by the President pro tempore and Senator STEVENS, is a hallmark piece of legislation. I certainly hope we can get this out of conference in basically the same form that it left the Senate. It is very important legislation, important for the country. Not only does it take care, as I have indicated, of the homeland defense measures, but it also gives additional support to our troops. And there is money there for some of the other things we are doing in international relations. We ran out of money for disabled veterans. There are many things there that need to be done.

In addition to that, we were able to get up the hate crimes legislation. We on this side are terribly disappointed the minority would not allow us to go forward on that. We thought we were threatened. I guess they, the minority, followed through on their threat that they were going to basically kill this bill by offering all kinds of amendments. They were unable to do that, but they did prevent cloture from being invoked.

The debt limit is now out. It is important. I am disappointed that the country has turned on its head basically. Last year at this time, we had a

\$4.7 trillion surplus. We now are basically spending in the red. That is too bad. But we had to extend the debt limit. We did that. It was the responsible action. I hope the House will follow suit without games being played there.

We were able to dispose of the estate tax. I was interested. I listened on public radio Saturday to Bill Gates's father, Mr. Gates, talking about why he believed the estate tax was an important part of America. Remember, this is Bill Gates's father. He basically said he wanted his children well taken care of, and he wanted his grandchildren well taken care of, but it wasn't right to have no tax on an \$85 billion estate. That is basically what his son has. We were able to get rid of that.

Finally, we were able to have a good debate on the terrorism legislation dealing with the insurance aspect of it. Now, in the morning at 9:45, I feel confident we will invoke cloture on that very important legislation. We have been trying to move forward since last year in December.

We have had a productive time. After this week, we have 1 week prior to going out for the Fourth of July recess. The leader announced on Friday that as soon as we complete the antiterrorism insurance legislation, we are going to go to the Defense authorization bill. That is also extremely important. Senators LEVIN and WARNER have worked very hard on that legislation. It is always a bill where there are lots of amendments. I think this year will be no different. But it is something we will finish prior to the July 4 recess.

We have our work cut out for us. I hope those people who have amendments to offer on this legislation will do so.

As I have indicated, there will be no votes today. The vote will occur tomorrow morning on cloture. All first-degree amendments must be filed before 4 p.m. today. All second-degree amendments must be filed before 9:40 a.m. tomorrow.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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